

APPROVED REPORT

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2007 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Wednesday, May 23, 2007
Greenwood

Board President, Mr. Donald L. Arnold called the hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. In addition to Mr. Arnold, the following Board members were present: Ms. Frances A.S. Harris, Mr. John A. Hayden, III, Mr. Rodger C. Janssen, Ms. Ramona C. Johnson, Ms. JoAnn C. Murphy, Ms. Mary-Margaret O'Hare, Mr. Joseph J. Pallozzi, Mr. H. Edward Parker, Jr., and Ms. Joy Shillman. In addition, J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent, staff members, as well as media were present.

The following speakers addressed the Board:

1. Ms. Pamela Cline, Librarian, Dundalk High School – Requested that the Board consider a feasibility study for Dundalk High School in 2007-2008 followed by inclusion of funding for major renovations in 2008-2009 school year. Most of the windows leak when it rains. The water damage to blinds, floors, cabinetry, and books. She also stated that Dundalk High School has no elevator or interior ramps.
2. Mr. Robert Berkshire, Parent – Requested a feasibility study for Dundalk High School in 2007-2008 and renovations in the 2008-2009 capital budget. He stated that most of the windows leak, the roof leaks, there is peeling paint, exposed wires, and infestation of rodents. Mr. Berkshire asked that Dundalk High School be placed on a fast track for major improvements.
3. Mr. Sunil Nair, PTA Vice President, Harford Hills Elementary School – Requested funding for the parking lot and driveway at Harford Hills Elementary School. He stated that buses drive in the outbound lane when parents' cars are waiting to drop off or pick up children at the main entrance. Mr. Nair also stated that the school needs two separate entrances—one for cars and one for buses. Separate access would alleviate the bottle necks and hazardous conditions that block traffic on Old Harford Road.
4. Mr. Kent Smith, Secretary, Northeast Area Education Advisory Council – Reported on the council's capital pre-budget meeting held on May 16, 2007. Four items are being requested: Harford Hills Elementary School needs separate entrances because having one entrance proves confusing and dangerous; Chapel Hill Elementary School and Overlea High School need window replacements; Joppa View Elementary School is requesting an enclosed walkway from the driveway to the entrance of the school; and a new high school is needed in the northeast area. Mr. Smith asked the Board to push the county government to find and purchase land for this new high school.

5. Mr. Jim Fragetta, Parent – Expressed concerns over the physical plant of Rodgers Forge Elementary School. The school is significantly overcrowded.

6. Ms. Landi Callahan, Parent, Rodgers Forge Elementary School – Echoed the same comments and concerns as the previous speaker. Even before all-day kindergarten begins in FY08, the school is already overcrowded and parking is limited with all day kindergarten things will get even worse. Ms. Callahan stated that the central area needs at least one more elementary school as soon as possible or several additions built to create permanent solutions. She asked the Board to set aside the appropriate capital funding beginning in 2009 to solve the overcrowding issue at Rodgers Forge Elementary School.

The hearing was concluded at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe A. Hairston
Secretary-Treasurer

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